

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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R 240727Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5114

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2758

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION PEACE DECLARATION

1. SUMMARY: THE LONG-AWAITED KHMER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (AEREK) PEACE DECLARATION INDICATES A SHIFT FROM A RADICAL LEFTIST POSITION TO A STANCE CLOSER TO THAT OF KHMER ELDER STATESMAN SON SANN. THE DOCUMENT TREATS "BOTH CONTESTING PARTIES" EQUALLY IN URGING THEM TO SEEK PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND AFFIRMING THAT STUDENTS WISH TO SEE NEITHER KHMER SIDE VICTOR OR VANQUISHED. STUDENTS ASK THAT PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE PROVEN TO BE OBSTACLES TO PEACE SHOULD RESIGN BUT NAME NO NAMES; THEY ALSO REQUIRE THE DEPARTURE OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS INCLUDING ADVISORS, AND "THE END OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN KHMER INTERNAL AFFAIRS." THE STATEMENT PUTS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE, INCLUDING CORRUPTION, AND APPEALS TO BOTH SIDES TO SHOW GOOD WILL IN CONSTRUCTING A JUST SOCIETY BY REVISING REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NOT TRULY DEMOCRATIC. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT THE DOCUMENT IS NOT CONSIDERED AS STRIDENT AS PREVIOUS STUDENT DECLARATIONS AND THAT

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MODERATE STUDENT CIRCLES WILL READILY SUPPORT IT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FEBRUARY 18-DATED KHMER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION DECLARATION ON PEACE SCORES CORRUPTION, EMPHASIZES THAT SOCIAL INJUSTICE IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF THE WAR ALONG WITH INVASION AND FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN KHMER AFFAIRS, AND ASSERTS THAT THE WAR IS MARKED INTERNALLY BY DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN "PATRIOTIC KHMER AND KHMER DEVOTED TO DICTATORIAL MEASURES TO ENSURE THEIR PERSONAL GAIN." THE DECLARATION NOTES THAT STUDENTS DO NOT WISH TO SEE EITHER KHMER FACTION AS VICTOR OR VANQUISHED BUT, RATHER, WANT MUTUAL CONCESSIONS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO RESTORE PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

3. THE DECLARATION SETS FORTH THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

(A) STUDENTS WILL SUPPORT ALL EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE KHMER "SOCIAL" PROBLEM WHICH CONFORM TO REALITY AND THE NEEDS OF THE MAJORITY AND THEY WILL UNRESERVEDLY SUPPORT STEPS LEADING TO PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS IN GOOD FAITH. ATTEMPTS TO USE PEACE TO FOSTER PERSONAL PURSUIT OF POWER OR PROLONG THE CONFLICT WILL BE TOTALLY OPPOSED.

(B) THEY APPEAL TO BOTH ANTAGONISTS TO SHOW GENUINE GOOD WILL TOWARD CONSTRUCTING A JUST SOCIETY ESPECIALLY BY REVISING THOSE INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE NOT TRULY DEMOCRATIC. PERSONALITIES WHOM THE PEOPLE CONSIDER OBSTACLES TO PEACE MUST RESIGN.

(C) THEY DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE FROM KHMER SOIL OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY TROOPS WHETHER MILITARY ADVISORS OR MILITARY "DISGUISED AS CIVILIANS" AND AN END TO FOREIGN MILITARY INTERVENTION AND INTERFERENCE IN KHMER INTERNAL AFFAIRS. FINALLY THE ASSOCIATION APPEALS TO ALL YOUTH AND CITIZENS OF EVERY COUNTRY AND TO ALL WORLD ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP THE KHMER SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS AND ENSURE THAT NO SOLUTION BE IMPOSED ON THE KHMER.

4. COMMENT: THE GKR CAMPAIGN TO UNDERMINE AEREK AND LETTERS FACULTY PRESIDENT LOCH SOEUN AND OTHER RADICALS HAS BEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL, TO JUDGE BY REPORTS OF SHARP DEBATE OVER THIS PEACE DECLARATION AND THE RELATIVE MILDNESS OF THE FINAL PRODUCT. AS COMPARED WITH THE LETTERS FACULTY DECLARATION OF JAN.16 THIS DECLARATION IS MUCH CLOSER TO THE PRO-SON SANN POSITION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EARLIER FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND FACULTY OF COMMERCE STATEMENTS THAN TO THE MILITANT FAR-LEFT DISSEMINATIONS OF THE FACULTY OF LETTERS, ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE AND SECONDARY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION. NO "PERSONALITIES WHO ARE OBSTACLES TO PEACE" ARE NAMED, AND THE JAN.16 ATTACK ON REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS HAS SOFTENED TO A REQUEST TO "REVISE INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT A TRULY REPRESENTATIVE NATURE." THE EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT OF THE "CONTESTING PARTIES" IS CHARACTERISTIC OF SON SANN AND

CANNOT BUT DISQUIET THE GKR. ITS INSERTION IN THIS DOCUMENT IS A MEASURE OF LACK OF FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT AND A SIGN THAT NOT ALL WAR-WEARY MODERATE STUDENTS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE OTHER SIDE IS REALLY COMMUNIST.

5. IN PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS, AN ASSEMBLY DEPUTY AND A FANK GENERAL DESCRIBED THE DECLARATION AS MODERATELY-WORDED AND BOUND TO ATTRACT WIDE SUPPORT IN STUDENT CIRCLES. IN PARTICULAR, THE EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND CORRUPTION AND THE RELATIVELY MILD TONE SHOULD DRAW THE BROAD STUDENT MASS. IN A CONVERSATION WITH OUR LOCAL POLITICAL ASSISTANT ON FEBRUARY 21, LOCH SOEUN SAID THAT AEREK WOULD NOW SHIFT ITS FOCUS TO SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND ISSUES. WE ANTICIPATE THAT STUDENT RADICALS' EMPHASIS ON THESE ISSUES SHOULD PROVE MORE EXPLOITABLE WITHOUT, AT THE SAME TIME, INVITING GKR CHARGES TO SEDITION, AS DID EARLIER ATTACKS ON PROMINENT FIGURES AND REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS.  
ENDERS

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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